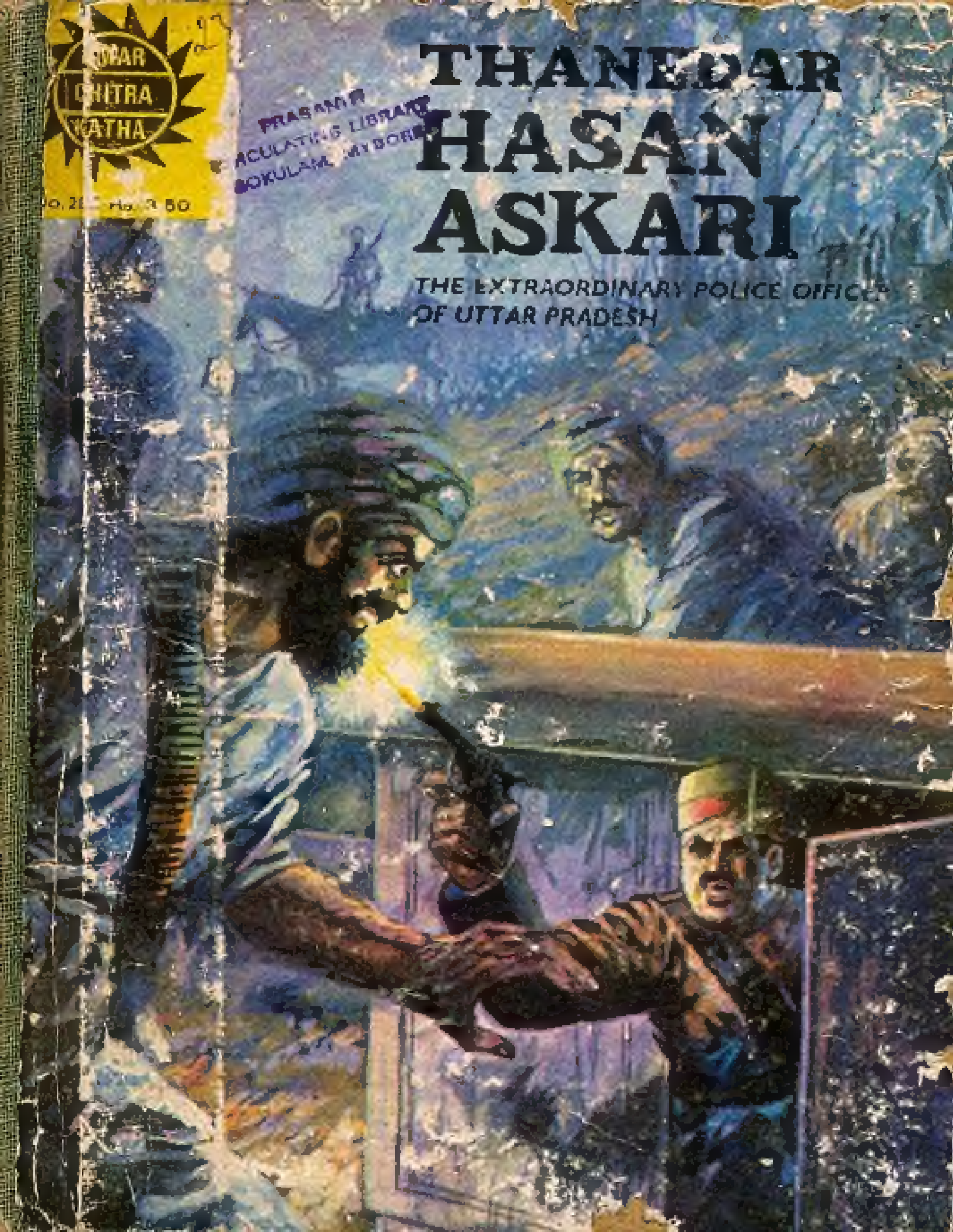


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THANEDAR HASAN ASKARI

THE EXTRAORDINARY POLICE OFFICER
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ANEDAR HASAN ASKARI

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IN 1931, RASULABAD, IN KANPUR DISTRICT, WAS TERRORISED BY THE NOTORIOUS DACOIT, BETA SINGH, AND HIS GANG.

FOLLOWING NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS, THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE CALLED A MEETING OF THE STATION OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.



BETA SINGH HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE IN RASULABAD.



YOU, AS STATION OFFICER OF RASULABAD, HAVE FAILED MISERABLY IN YOUR TASK!



THIS DACOIT OPERATES WITH IMPUNITY UNDER YOUR VERY NOSE. YOU ARE INCOMPETENT AND A DISGRACE TO...

THAT IS NOT FAIR, SIR.



THE MAN WHO HAD INTERRUPTED HIM WAS HASAN ASKARI, THANEEDAR OF SUSAHAU POLICE STATION.

IT IS WRONG OF YOU TO INSULT AN OFFICER IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

WHAT! HOW DARE YOU!

BEFORE THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL COULD SAY ANOTHER WORD, ASHARI WALKED OUT OF THE ROOM.



THE POLICE OFFICER WAS FURIOUS WITH ASHARI. LATER WHEN HE MET THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE —



SEND HIM TO RAJULABAD. LET HIM DEAL WITH THE DACOITS HIMSELF!



ASHARI WAS TRANSFERRED TO RAJULABAD. THERE —



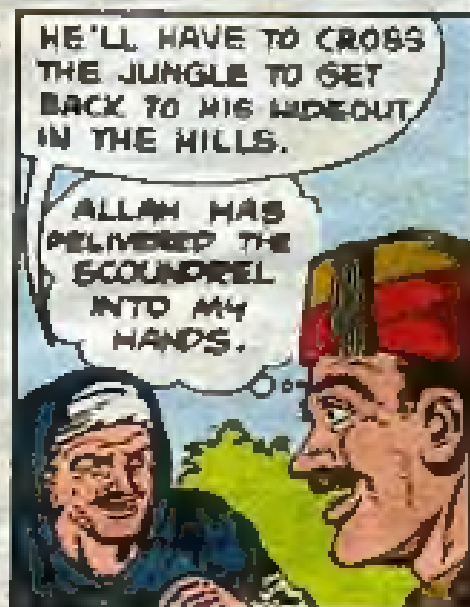
IT WOULD TAKE HUNDREDS OF MEN TO FLUSH BETA SINGH AND HIS DESPERADOES OUT FROM THEIR HIDEOUT.



BUT I MUST NAB THAT MAN SOMEHOW.



HE SENT OUT SPIES TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE DACCOT LEADER. ONE DAY—



A LITTLE LATER, FOUR MEN CARRYING A PALANQUIN, ENTERED THE JUNGLE. THEY WERE POLICEMEN IN MUFTI.

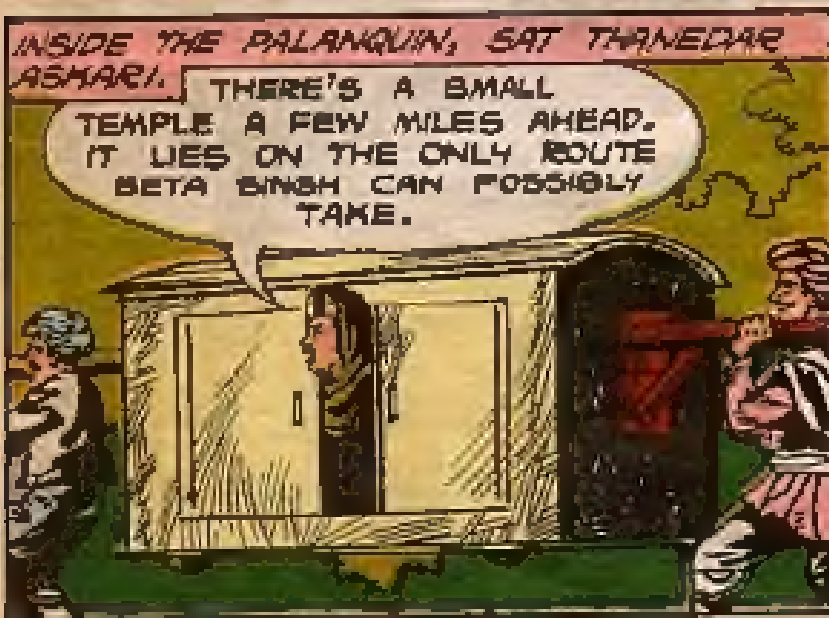


THEY WERE PRECEDED BY THE INFORMER WHO HAD BROUGHT THEM NEWS ABOUT BETA SINSH.



INSIDE THE PALANQUIN, SAT THARNEDAR ASHARI.

THERE'S A SMALL TEMPLE A FEW MILES AHEAD. IT LIES ON THE ONLY ROUTE BETA SINSH CAN POSSIBLY TAKE.



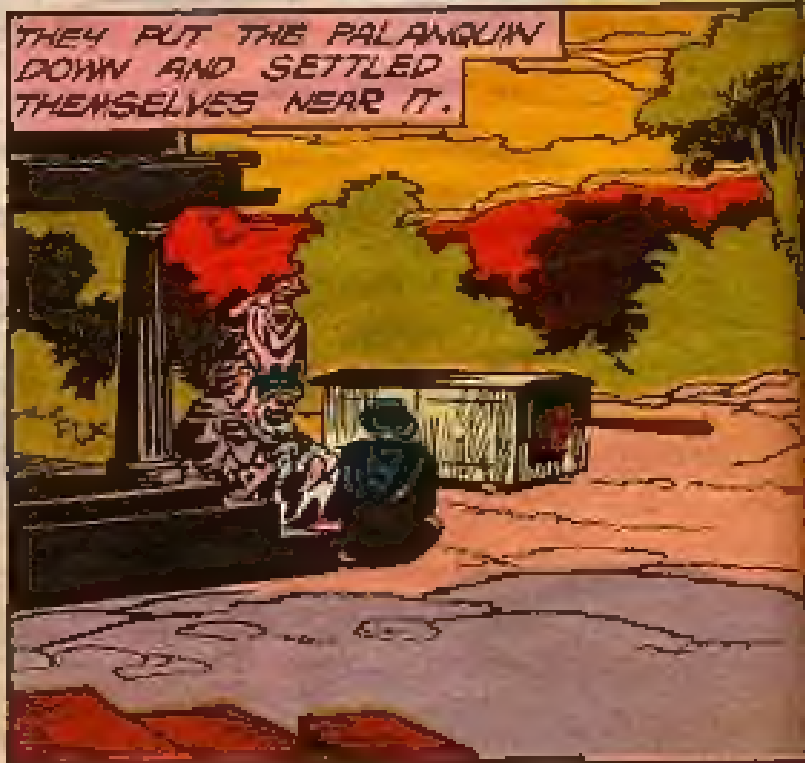
WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM THERE.



THE PARTY OF POLICEMEN REACHED THE TEMPLE BEFORE NIGHTFALL.



THEY PUT THE PALANQUIN DOWN AND SETTLED THEMSELVES NEAR IT.



AFTER SOME TIME —

THEY'RE
COMING,
SAHEB.



WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

WE... WE
ARE POOR
KAMARS,
SAHEB.



WE WERE TAKING
A BRIDE TO HER
FATHER-IN-LAW'S
HOUSE AND WE
LOST OUR
WAY.

A BRIDE,
SH P



LET ME
SEE HOW SHE
LOOKS!

HAHAHA!



?



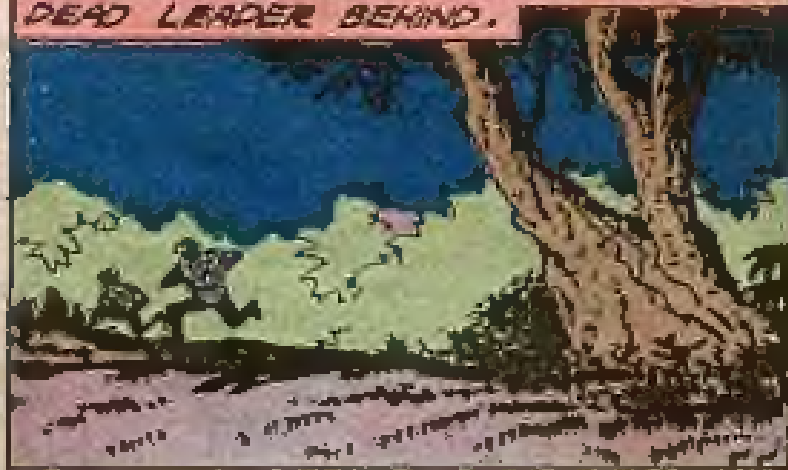


HIS RUSE WORKED. THE DACOTS THOUGHT HE HAD BROUGHT THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE WITH HIM.

BETA SINGH IS DEAD. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.



THE DACOTS FLED LEAVING THEIR DEAD LEADER BEHIND.



WITH THE DEATH OF BETA SINGH THE GANG BROKE UP. OTHER CRIMINALS TOO HASTILY LEFT RASULABAD.

THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES WERE IMPRESSED WITH ASKARI'S WORK AND AWARDED HIM THE KING'S POLICE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY. THE MEDAL WAS PINNED ON HIM BY THE VERY MAN WHO HAD TRANSFERRED HIM TO RASULABAD.



YOU HAVE PROVED YOUR METTLE. YOU ARE A CREDIT TO THE FORCE.

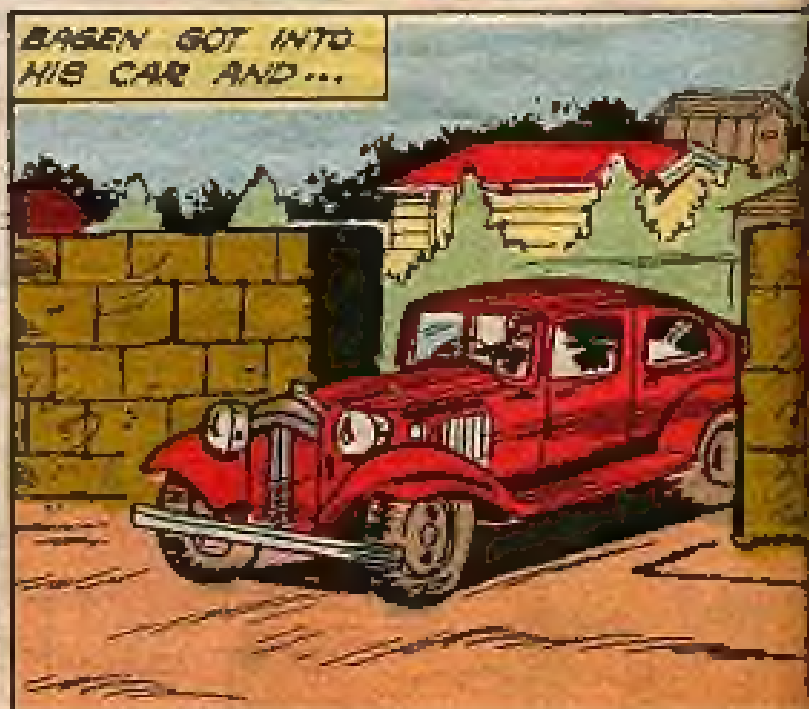
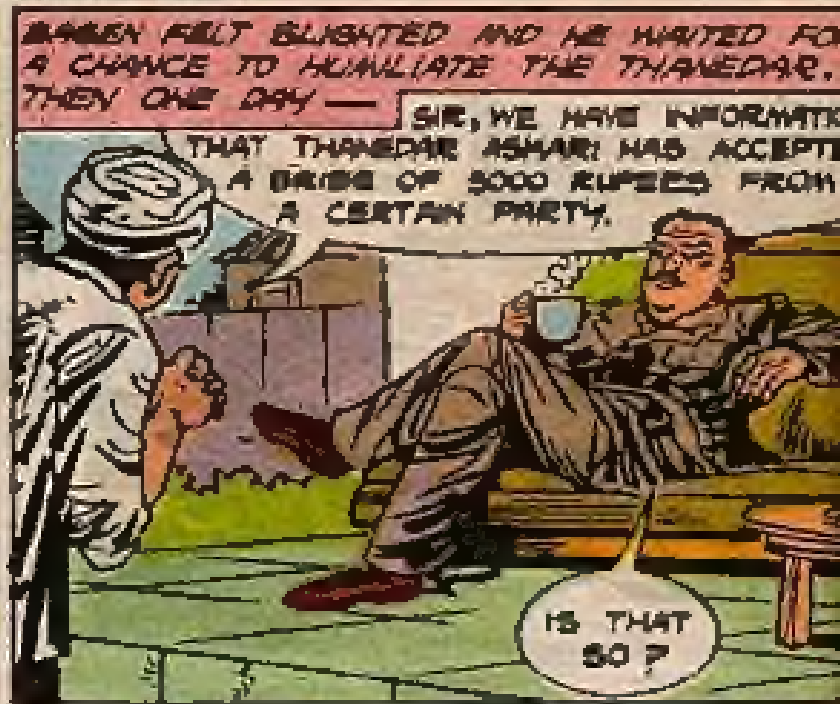
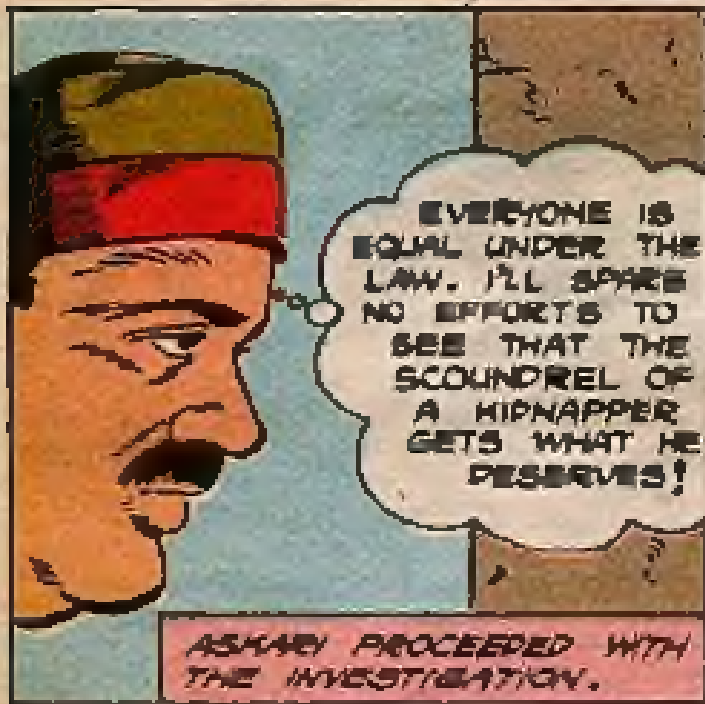
HOWEVER A FEW YEARS LATER, ASKARI GOT INTO TROUBLE WITH ANOTHER DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL, ONE MR. BAGEN. IT HAPPENED WHEN ASKARI ARRESTED A NOTORIOUS KIDNAPPER NAMED HANIF SAUDAM.



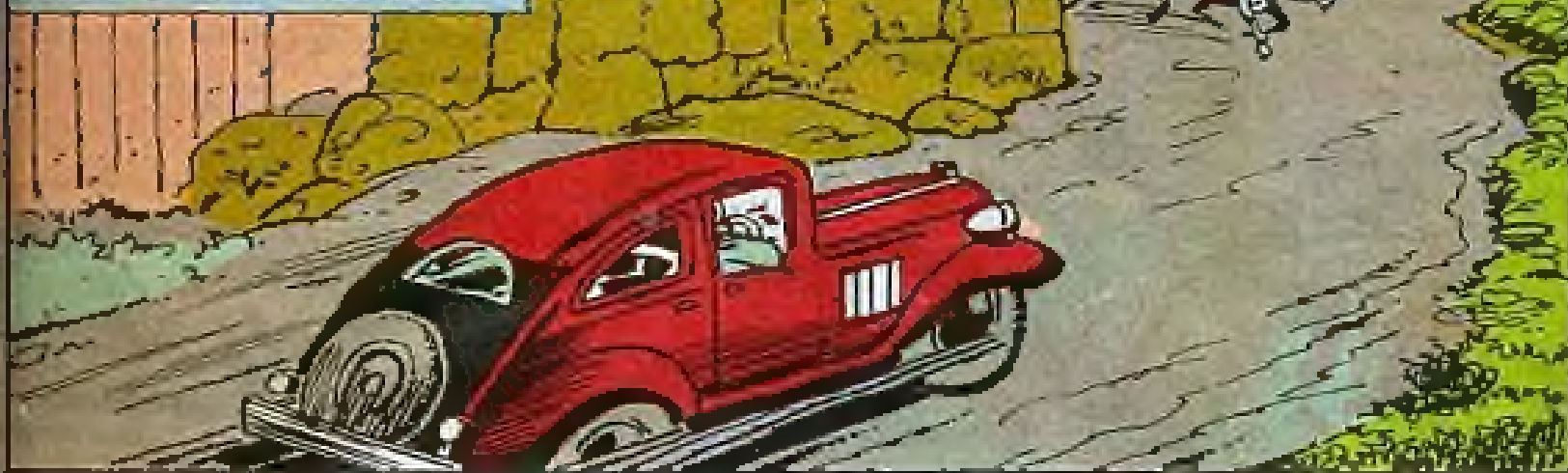
BAGEN CONTACTED ASKARI AND ASKED HIM TO RELEASE THE ARRESTED MAN.



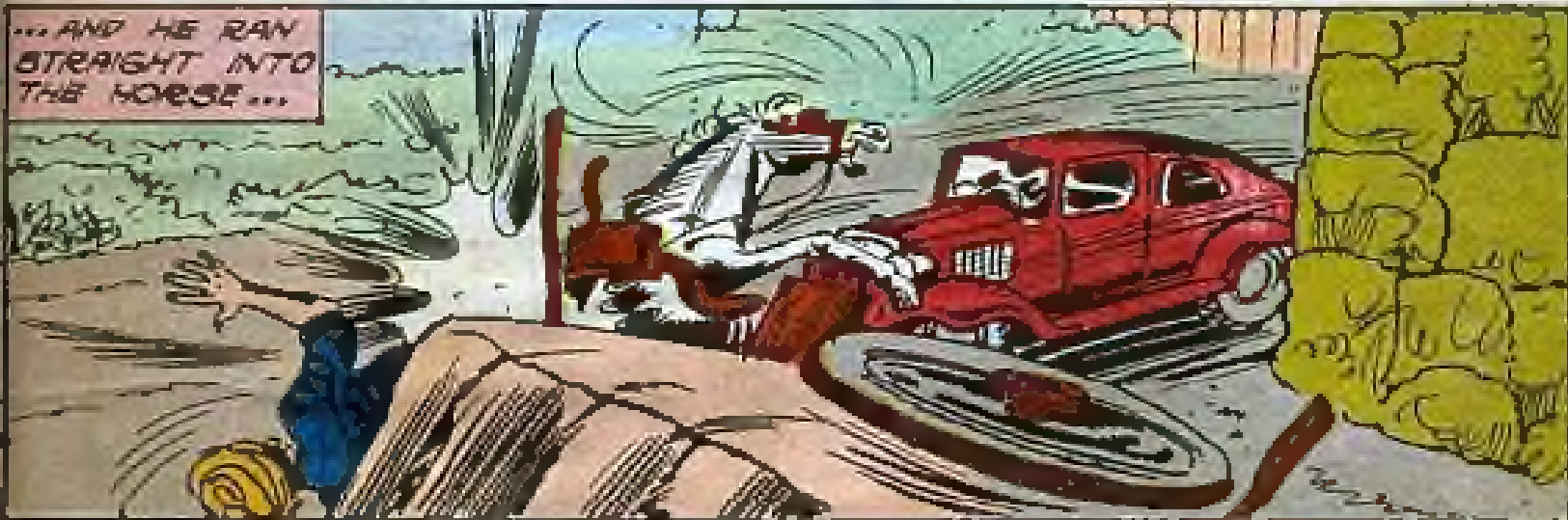
HOW CAN HE EXPECT ME TO DO SUCH A THING?



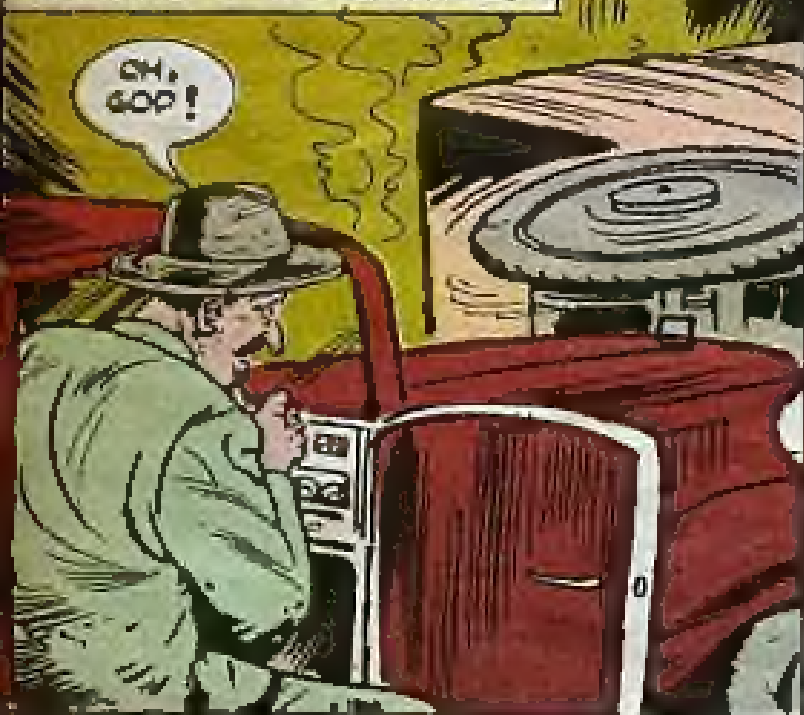
...DROVE TOWARDS THE POLICE STATION, SO PREOCCUPIED WAS HE WITH THOUGHTS OF REVENGE THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE TONGA TURNING THE CORNER...



...AND HE RAN STRAIGHT INTO THE HORSE...



...KILLING IT IMMEDIATELY.



THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED JUST OUTSIDE THE POLICE STATION. HASAN ASHARI AND THE OTHER POLICEMEN CAME RUSHING OUT.



THE THANGAR RECOGNISED BAGEN AT ONCE BUT DID NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION OF HAVING DONE SO.

WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID THIS ACCIDENT OCCUR?

IT WAS NOT MY FAULT, BAGES.



I WAS DRIVING SLOWLY. THEN THE CAR CAME AT GREAT SPEED AND PLOUGHED INTO MY POOR HORSE.



THE DRIVER AND TWO PASSENGERS WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED. ARNAB TOLD THEM THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES ...



... AND ARRANGED FOR THEM TO BE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

HE TOOK THEM TO MR BAGEN.

PLEASE COME WITH ME, SIR.



AT THE STATION, ARNAB OFFERED HIM A SEAT. THEN HE SENT FOR AN ANGLO-INDIAN SERGEANT. WHEN THE MAN CAME -

I WANT YOU TO ARREST MR BAGEN UNDER SECTION 56 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.





I WOULD HAVE DONE IT MYSELF BUT, AS YOU KNOW, NO INDIAN CAN ARREST A BRITISHER.

BUT... BUT...



HERE IS THE ORDER IN WRITING.

BOTH THE SERGEANT AND THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL WERE DUMBFOUNDED.



FORTUNATELY FOR THEM, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE CAME IN JUST THEN.



WHEN HE WAS APPRISED OF THE SITUATION —

LET US TALK THIS OVER, THANEDAR.

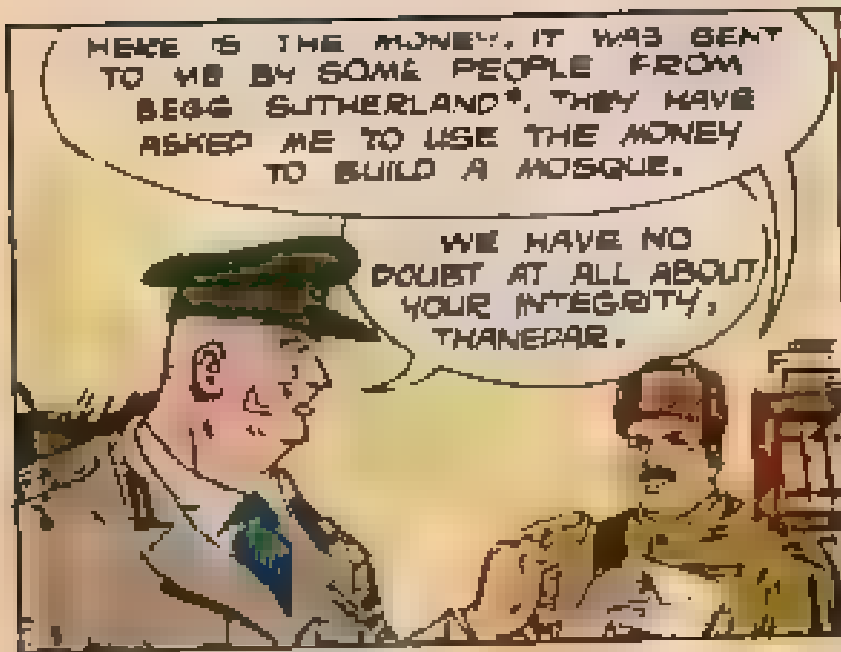
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE FINALLY PERSUADED THE THANEDAR TO LET THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL GO AS HE TWO OFFICERS WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE. ASHAFI SALUTED THEM.



AND THEY PULLED OUT AN ENVELOPE FROM HIS POCKET.

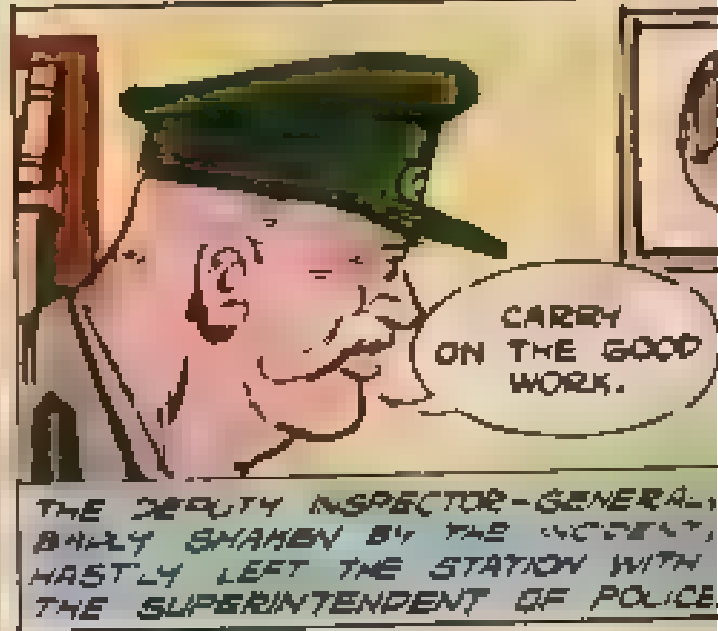


O.R., THERE'S A RUMOUR THAT I HAVE ACCEPTED A BRIBE OF FIVE THOUSAND RUPEES.



HERE IS THE MONEY. IT WAS SENT TO ME BY SOME PEOPLE FROM BEGG SUTHERLAND*. THEY HAVE ASKED ME TO USE THE MONEY TO BUILD A MOSQUE.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL ABOUT YOUR INTEGRITY, THANEDAR.



CARRY ON THE GOOD WORK.

THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL, BHAJI SHAKEN BY THE INCIDENT, HASTILY LEFT THE STATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

ASHAR'S ATTEMPT TO ARREST HIS OWN SUPERIOR WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF HIM. HE WAS FEARLESS IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTIES. ONCE AT HANPUR —



BAHEB, THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE FACTORY.



A UNION LEADER HAS BEEN MURDERED. SOMEBODY PUSHED HIM INTO THE FURNACE.

HOW GHASTLY!



ASHARI RUSHED TO THE SPOT.

AFTER MAKING ENQUIRIES HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE OWNER OF THE FACTORY WAS BEHIND THE MURDER

THE OWNER WAS A PROMINENT INDUSTRIALIST AND A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE WHEN ASKARI WENT TO SEE HIM —

YOU ARE MAKING AN UNNECESSARY FUSS ABOUT NOTHING, THANEDAR.

THE MAN WAS A TROUBLE-MAKER...

I DON'T CARE WHAT HE WAS.

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.

WHAT?

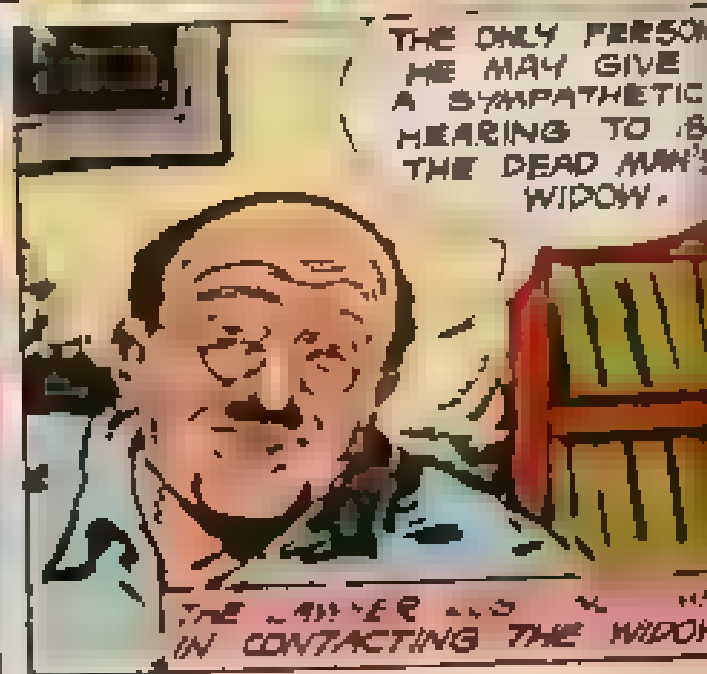
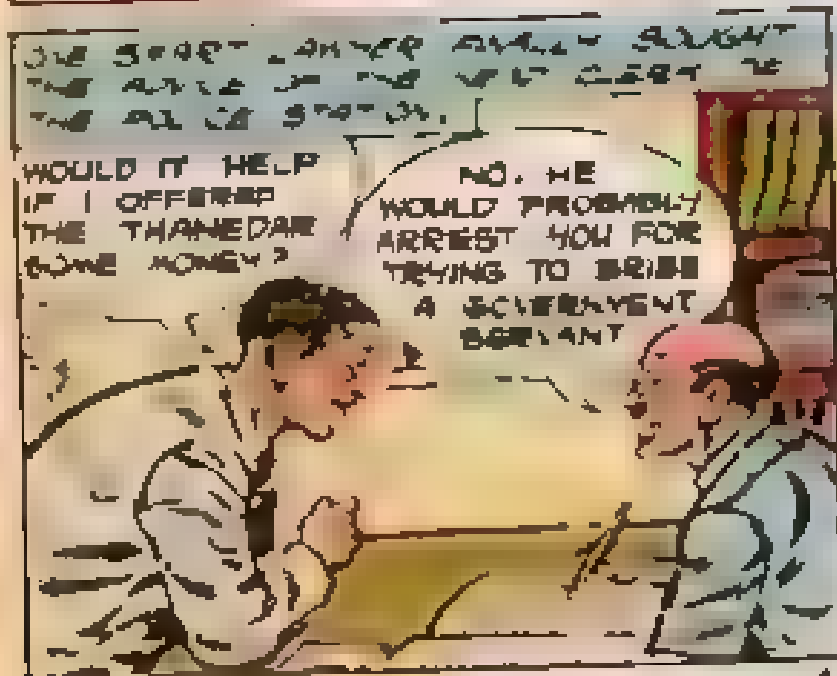
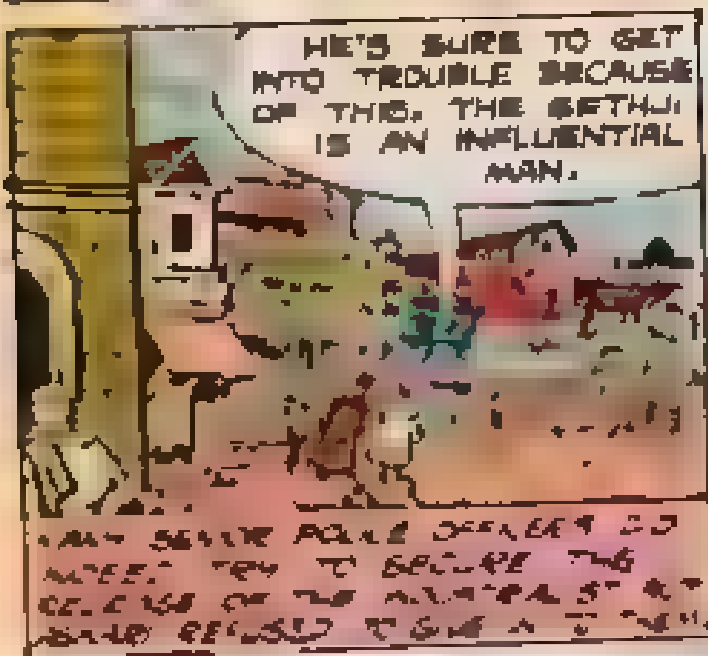
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I CAN DO TO YOU? I CAN BUY AND SELL THIS TOWN. I...

HANDCUFF HIM!

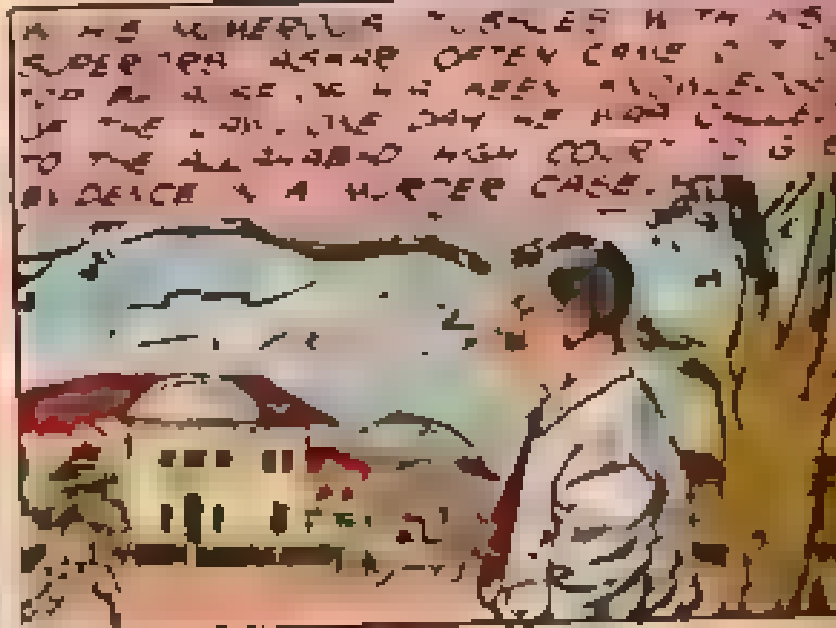
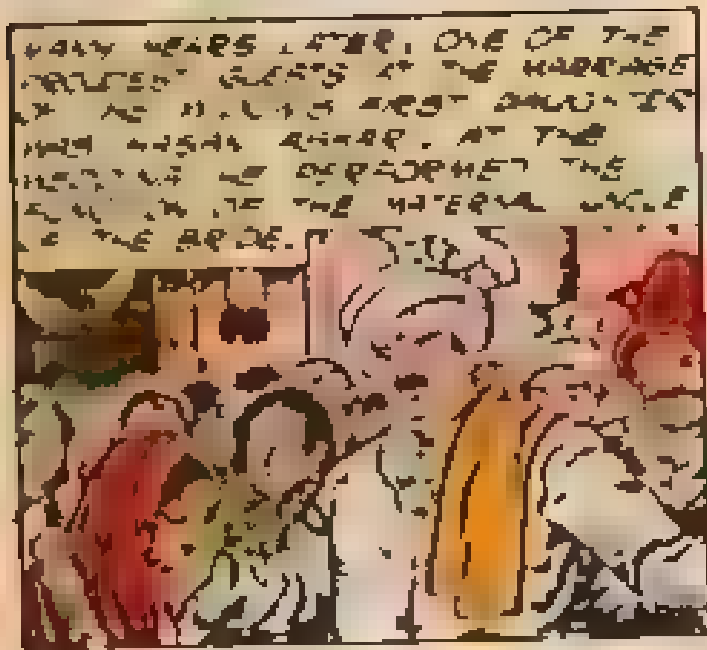
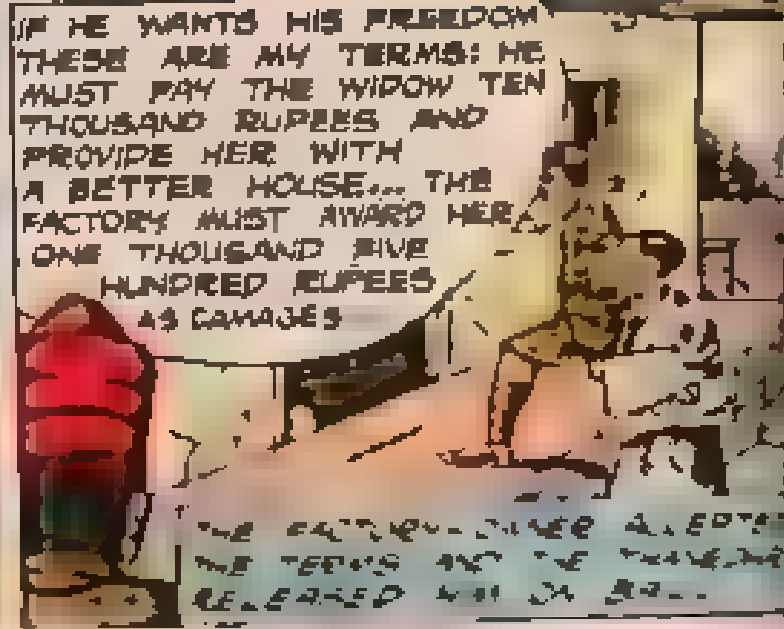
WAIT!

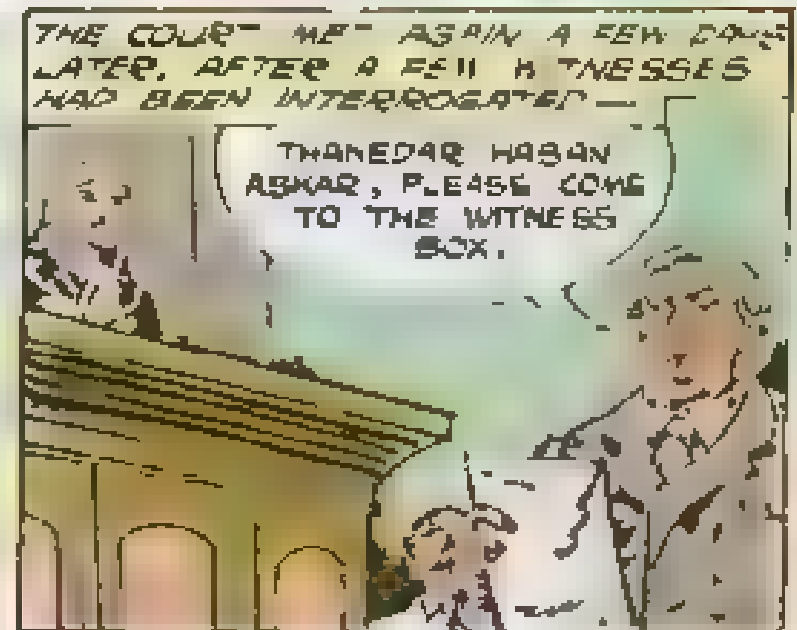
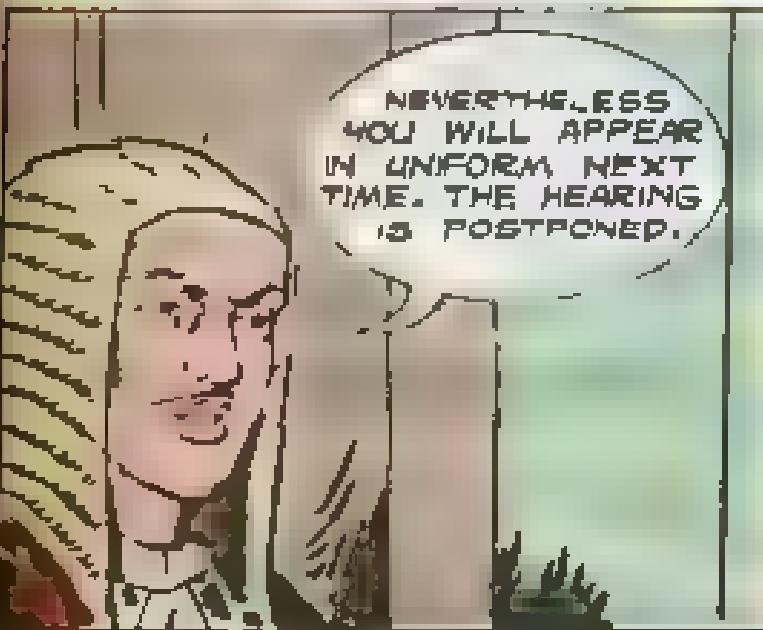
THE MANAGER OF THE FACTORY TRIED TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF HIS MASTER.

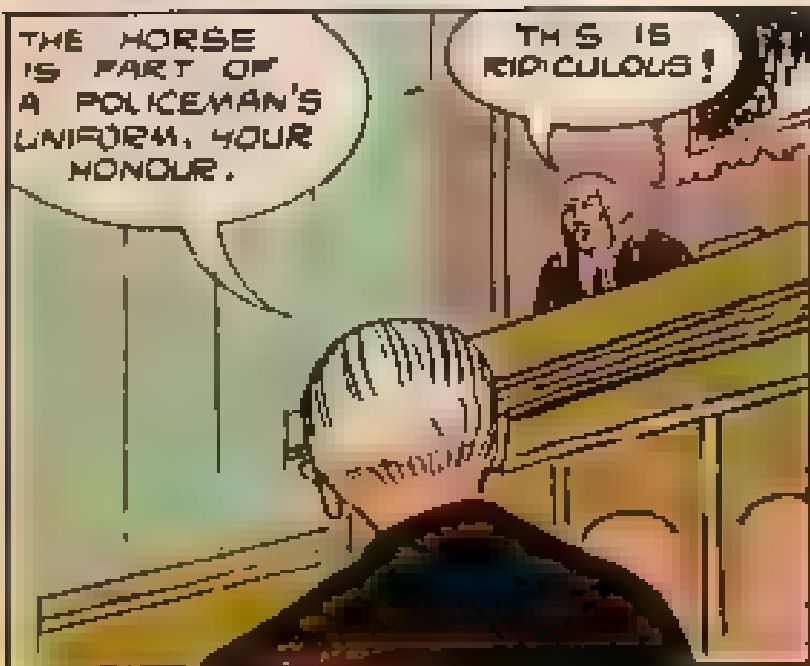
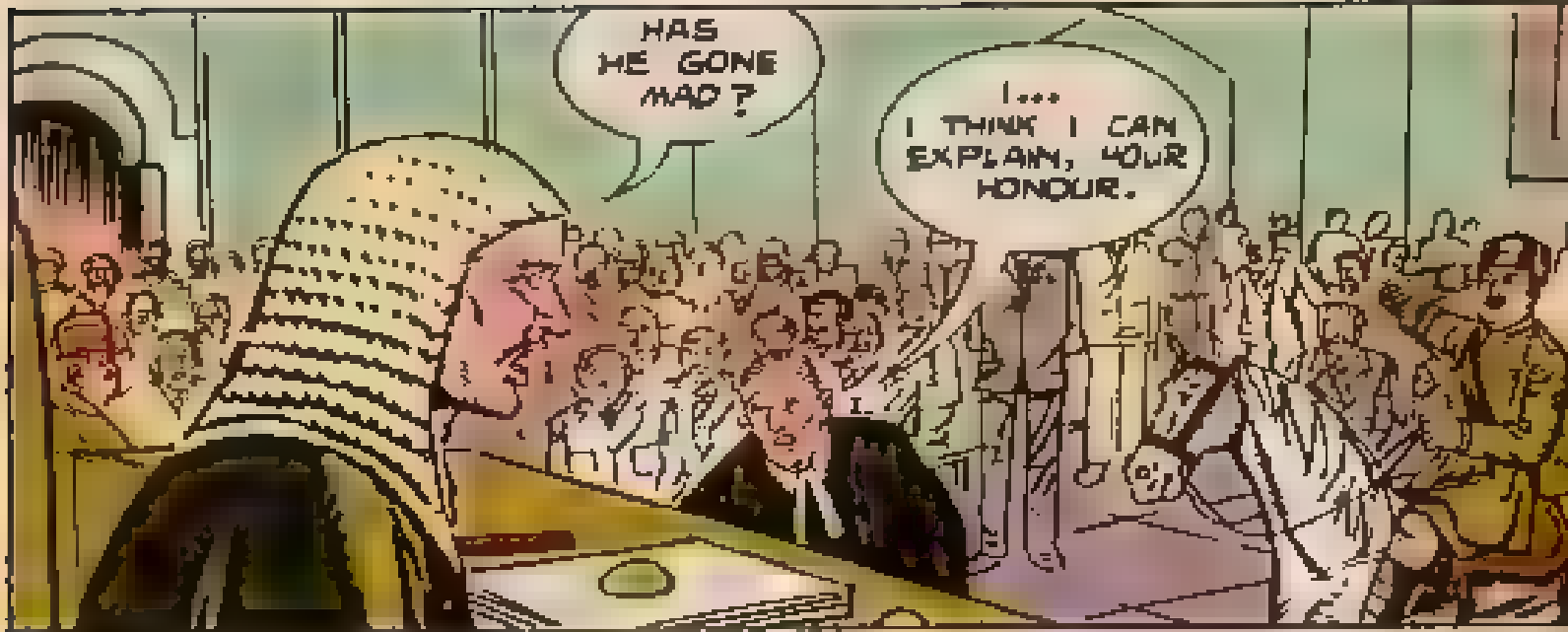
PLEASE DON'T ARREST BETHU, THANEDAR SAID. I ASK YOU.





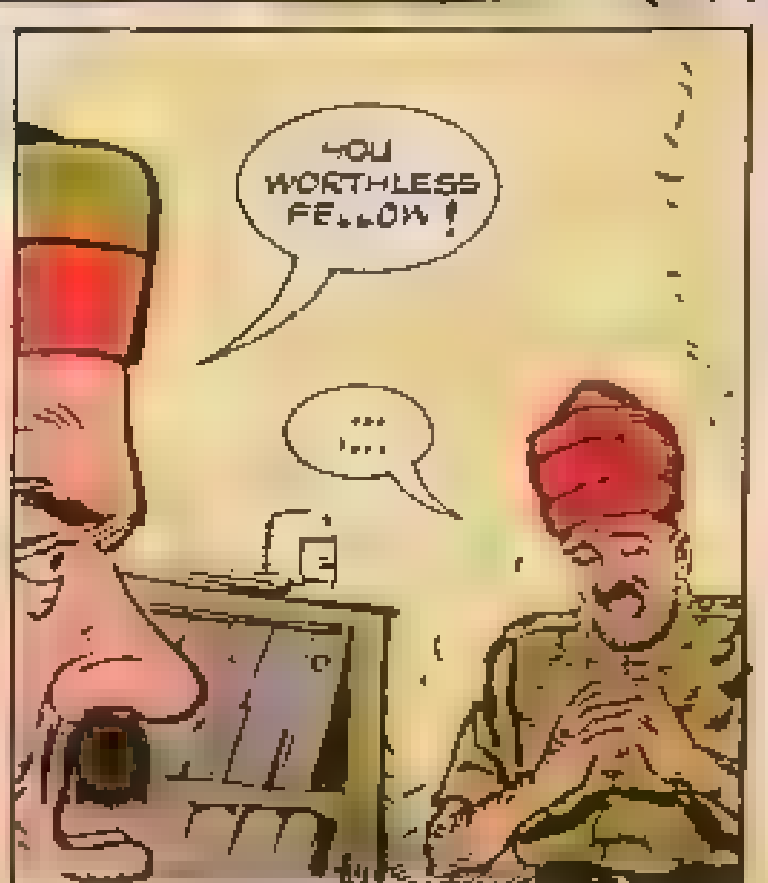








IN ALL HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE COLLECTOR GENERAL POLICE STATION. ONE DAY HE HEARD THAT A CERTAIN CONSTABLE HAD ACCEPTED A SMALL BRIBE. HE CALLED THE MAN IN





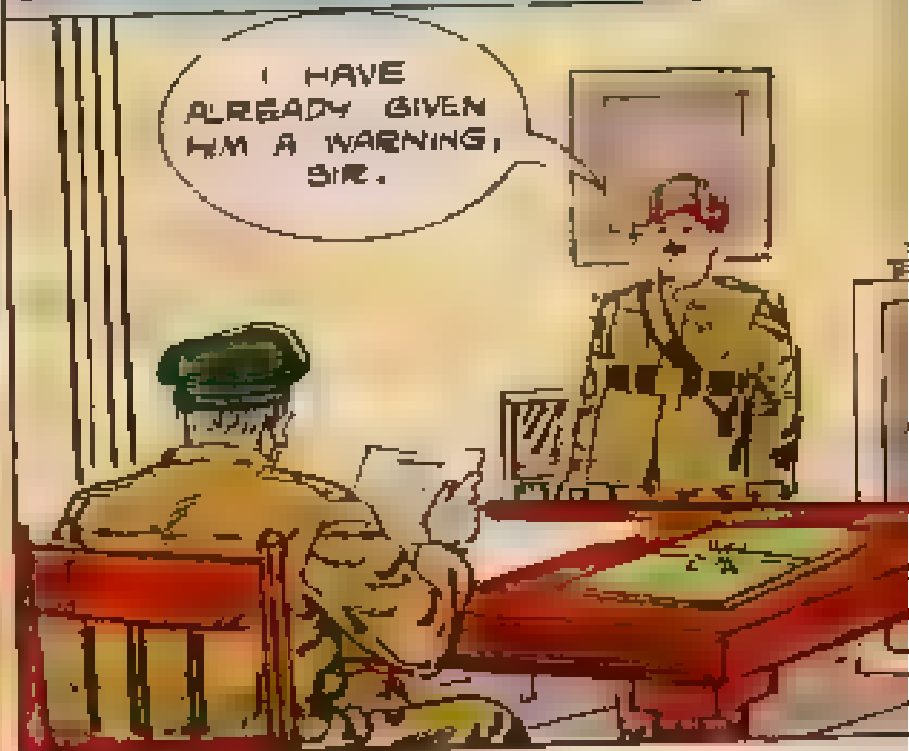
THE NEXT MORNING —

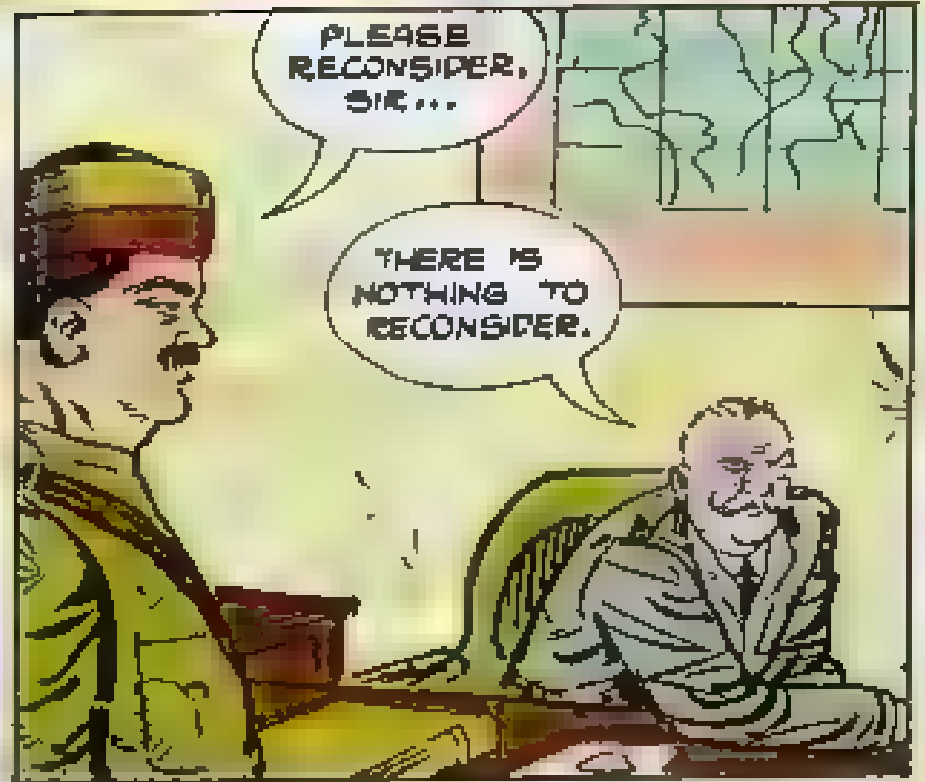
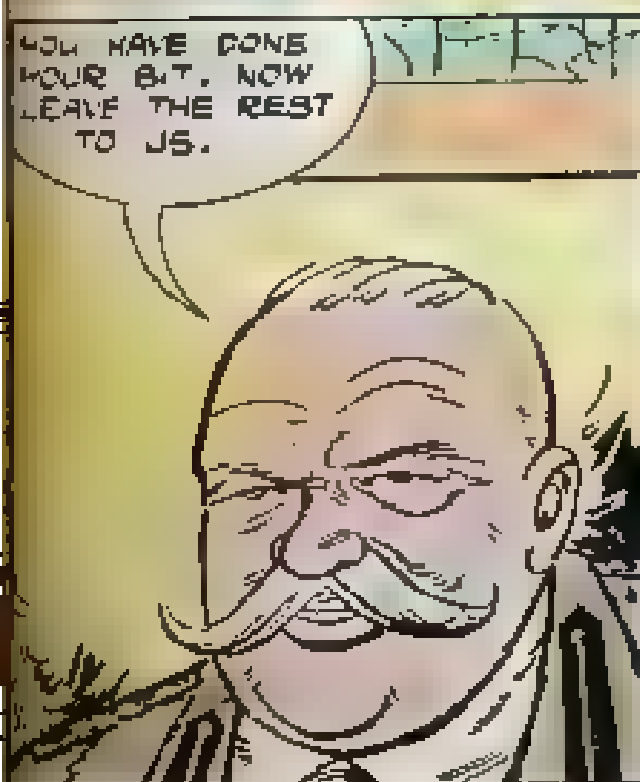
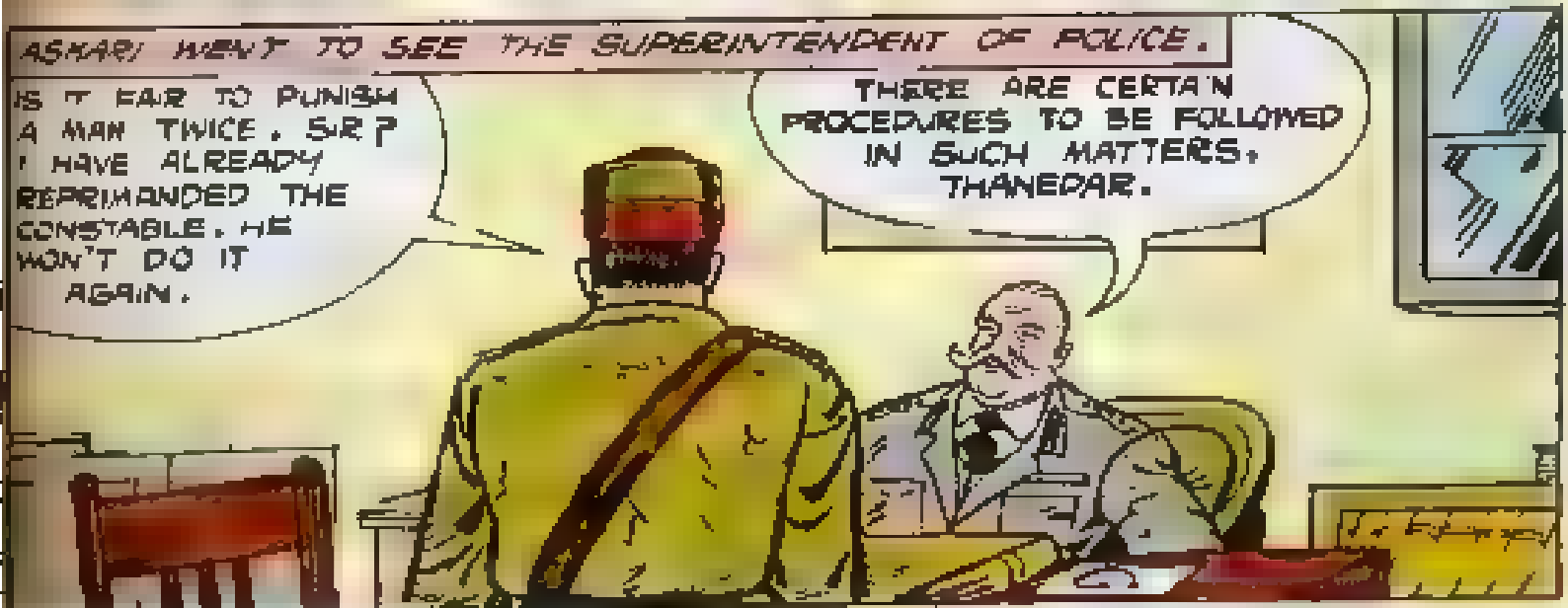
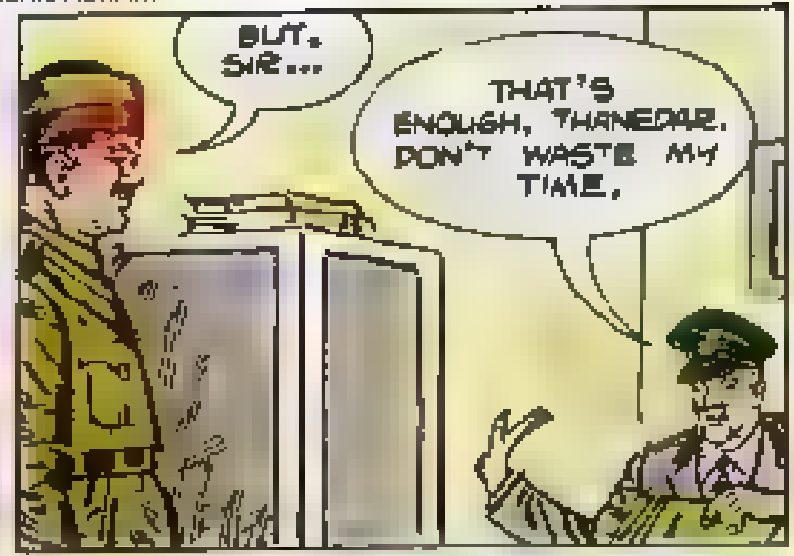


THE MAN WHO HAD GIVEN ME THE BRIBE HAS COMPLAINED TO H.M. PLEASE SAVE ME, SAHEB.



ASKARI WENT TO SEE THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.



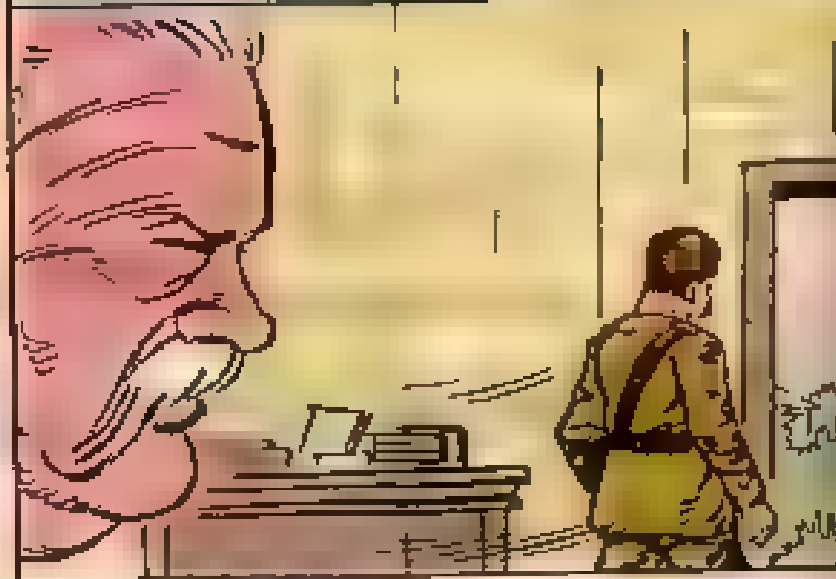




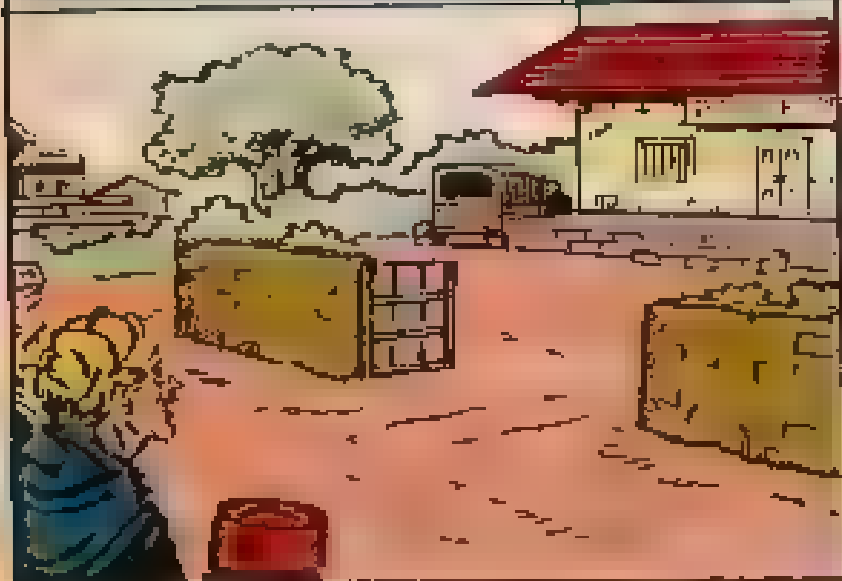
THE NEXT MOMENT, ASHARI SALUTED THE OFFICER...



...AND STALKED OUT.



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, NOT A SINGLE POLICEMAN REPORTED FOR DUTY.



THE RESIDENCES OF THE DISTRICT JUDGE, THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, THE COMMISSIONER, WERE ALL LEFT UNGUARDED.



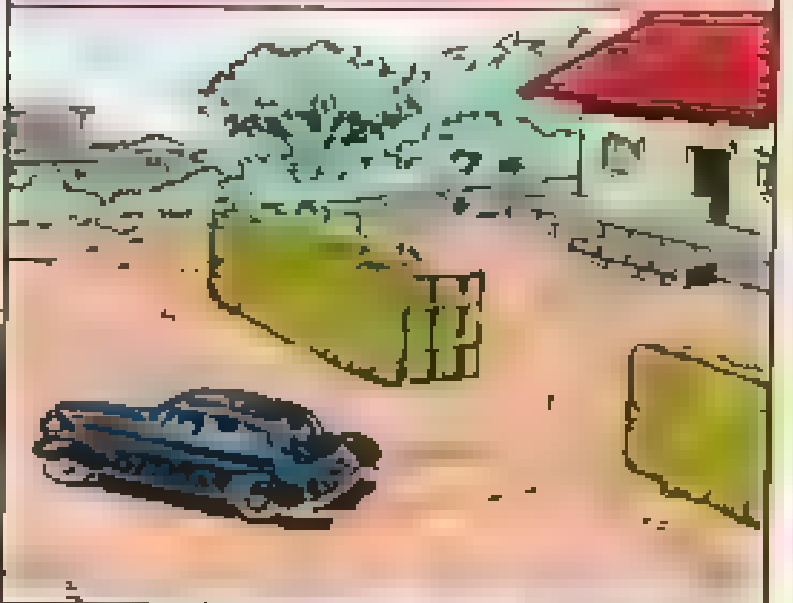
EVEN TRAFFIC POLICEMEN TOOK THE DAY OFF.



IN THE EVENING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE CALLED ON ASKARI.



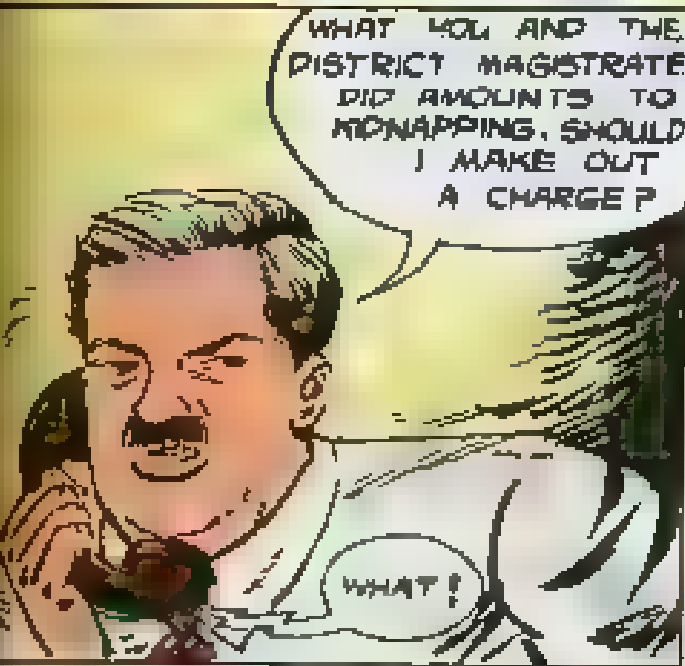
THEY CHATTED WITH HIM FOR A WHILE AND THEN ASKED HIM TO ACCOMPANY THEM TO THE RAILWAY STATION.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE STATION, A TRAIN WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR LUCKNOW.







HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE POLICE OFFICER'S WIFE HE RAN WITH THE "SUNSHINE" OF POLICE AND THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE WERE ALL...



AH, THERE YOU ARE!



COME SIT DOWN, THUNDERBOLT.

THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND THE REST OF THE POLICE WERE ALL...

AND THE THUNDERBOLT DID NOT SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT DELEGATING CHARGES AGAINST THEM. SOON, THE THREE WERE CALLED TO AN INTERVIEW.



I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE TRANSFER SIR.



...ONLY TO THE WAY IT WAS DONE. I SHALL LEAVE FOR BASTI TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

THE NEWS OF AMAR'S TRANSFER SAID BY HIMSELF IN THE CITY AND HE WAS NOT DEVOID OF A FEW MORE TO THE PEOPLE. HUNDREDS OF THE CAME TO SEE HIM OFF THE NEXT DAY.



WHEN HE STEPPED OUT OF THE POLICE STATION HE FOUND THIRTY TRUCKS LINED UP OUTSIDE.

LET ME PUT YOUR LUGGAGE IN MY TRUCK, SIR.

NO, NO, LET ME PUT IT IN MINE.



FRIENDS, I DON'T NEED A TRUCK FOR MY...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SIR? HERE, GIVE ME THAT.



FINALLY ALL THIRTY TRUCKS SET OUT FOR BASTI. EACH OF THEM CARRIED ONE ARTICLE OF ASKARI'S LUGGAGE...



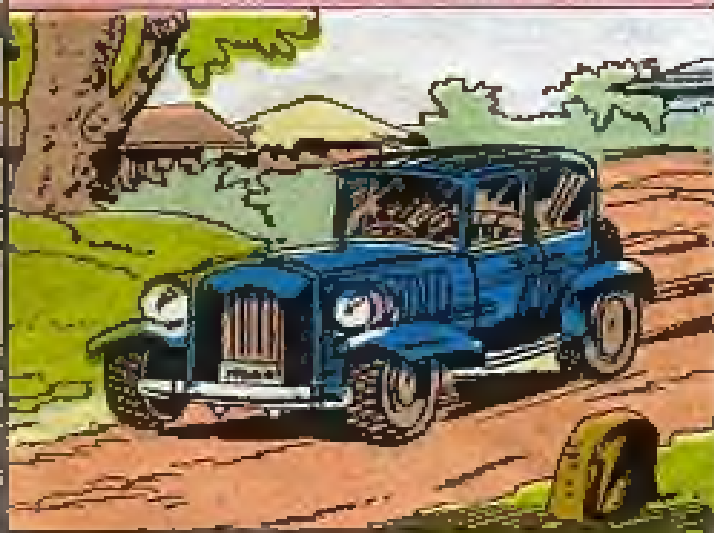
...THE LAST TRUCK CARRYING ONLY HIS CAT!



ASHARI HIMSELF WENT BY TRAIN. WHEN HE ALIGHTED AT BASTI HE FOUND THE INDIAN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OF THAT DISTRICT WAITING FOR HIM.

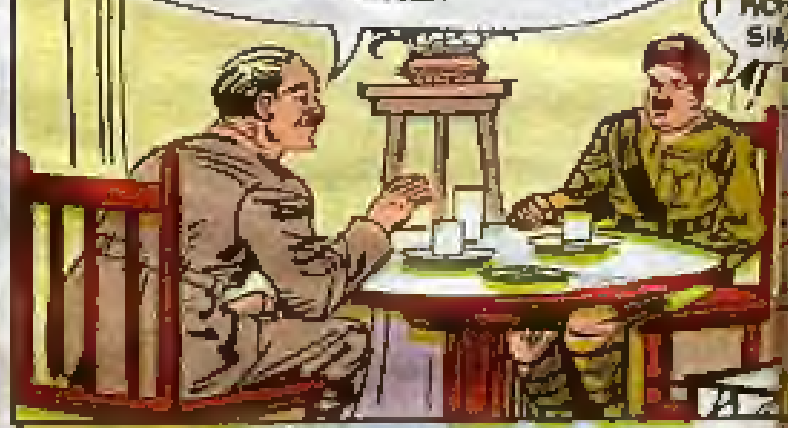


THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE TOOK ASHARI TO HIS BUNGALOW...



...FOR A BRIEFING. AFTER THAT WAS OVER —

THANEDAR, MY HONOUR IS IN YOUR HANDS. PLEASE DON'T START ANY CONTROVERSY HERE.



I SHALL DO MY DUTY TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.



ASHARI TOOK CHARGE OF THE POLICE STATION AND THEN IMMEDIATELY WENT BACK TO THE SUPERINTENDENT HOUSE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

SIR, I WANT TO GO ON LEAVE...





FINALLY HE BUILT A SEVEN-ROOM HOSPITAL FOR HIS PATIENTS.



HE TRAINED AND KEPT ANOTHER MAN IN CHARGE WHEN HE HAD TO RESUME DUTY.

IN 1945 HE WAS POSTED TO ALLAHABAD. WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF HIS ARRIVAL, HE ORDERED, UNDER THE GOONDA ACT, THE ARREST OF ALL ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.



THE JAILS BECAME FULL. SOME OF THE PRISONERS WERE INFLUENTIAL MEN, BUT AS USUAL, THANEDAR ASKARI REFUSED TO RELEASE ANY OF THEM.



HIS STUBBORNNESS EARNED HIM THE DISPLEASURE OF HIS SUPERIORS AND HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER POLICE STATION SITUATED IN A PRINCIPAL STATE. HERE HE CAUSED GREAT EMBARRASSMENT TO THE AUTHORITY BY ARRESTING THE CORRUPT RAJAH HIMSELF.



HE WAS HASTILY TRANSFERRED TO HARDOI AND FROM THERE TO PITHAN. WHEN RETIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 1946 AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE, HE WAS THE THANEDAR OF PITHAN POLICE STATION. HE BEGAN AS A THANEDAR AND HE RETIRED AS ONE.

